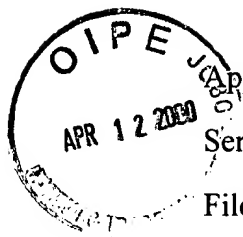


PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant: P. A. Billing-Medel, *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/049,696

Filed: March 27, 1998

For: REAGENTS AND METHODS
USEFUL FOR DETECTING
DISEASES OF THE
GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT

Examiner: J. Kerr

Group Art Unit: 1633

Case No.: 6067.US.P1

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR
1.8 (a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the:

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Washington, D.C. 20231, on:

Date of Deposit: April 5, 2000

Kathleen Boettcher 4/5/00
Kathleen Boettcher Date

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT & RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

This is responsive to the Office Action dated January 4, 2000. Claims 1-6, 11, 15, 17 and 18 are being examined on their merits. This response is accompanied by a request for a one month extension of time which therefore extends the time period for this response to May 4, 2000.

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A purified polynucleotide ~~[or fragment thereof derived from a CS194 gene]~~, wherein said polynucleotide is [capable of selectively hybridizing to the

a/b